

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 111438Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9479

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AU, UR

SUBJ: AUSTRO-SOVIET ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

1. AUSTRO-SOVIET ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED JULY 3 IN VIENNA DURING KOSYGIN OFFICIAL VISIT. ACCORDING TO FONOFF OFFICIAL WHO NEGOTIATED THIS AGREEMENT, AUSTRIANS HAD PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS OVER A YEAR AGO BUT SOVIETS IGNORED AUSTRIAN REQUEST UNTIL THEY SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED JUNE 20, TO SURPRISE OF AUSTRIANS, THAT DELEGATION WOULD APPEAR HERE JUNE 22 TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WANTED QTE AT LEAST ONE AUTHENTIC AGREEMENT UNQTE SIGNED DURING KOSYGIN VISIT. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT IS UNEXCEPTIONAL, SOVIETS PROVED TO BE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATORS, AND TALKS WENT ON INTO LATE EVENING HOURS UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED JUNE 29.

2. ALTHOUGH TEXT OF AGREEMENT NOT YET AVAILABLE, FOLLOWING IS FROM AUTHORITATIVE AUSTRIAN SOURCES: AGREEMENT WILL COVER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS AND GOODS BY ROAD BETWEEN AND THROUGH AUSTRIA AND USSR. IT IS GENERALLY PATTERNED AFTER THE 20 BILATERAL ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS AUSTRIA HAS SO FAR CONCLUDED.

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CONTRARY TO BILATERALS AUSTRIA HAS WITH OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES,

AGREEMENT WITH USSR PROVIDES FOR FULL RECIPROCITY.

3. TWO COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE PERMITS ISSUED BY APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES OF EITHER COUNTRY AS VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. QUOTA OF PERMITS TO BE ISSUED AUSTRIAN AND SOVIET TRUCKERS WILL, HOWEVER, BE SUBJECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROTOCOL. FOR REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR AND FIRST QUARTER OF 1974, QUOTA OF 800 SINGLE TRIP PERMITS TO TRUCKERS OF EACH COUNTRY IS ENVISAGED.

4. UNDER AGREEMENT AUSTRIAN TRUCKERS WILL BE EXEMPT FROM TRANSPORT TAXES IN USSR; SOVIET AS WELL AS OTHER TRUCKERS ALREADY ENJOY EXEMPTION FROM SIMILAR TAXES IN AUSTRIA AS CONSEQUENCE OF INTRODUCTION OF VALUE-ADDED TAX JAN. 1.

5. AUSTRIANS HOPE AGREEMENT WILL EVENTUALLY BRING ABOUT MORE EVENLY BALANCED TRUCK TRAFFIC BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND USSR WHICH CURRENTLY IS DOMINATED BY SOVIETS. FURTHERMORE, AGREEMENT SHOULD FACILITATE AUSTRIAN TRANSIT TRUCK TRAFFIC THROUGH USSR TO FINLAND, WHICH HAD VIRTUALLY COME TO STANDSTILL LATELY IN ABSENCE OF SOVIET COOPERATION.

6. TEXT OF AGREEMENT WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN AVAILABLE.MOWINCKEL

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